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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Caribbean Regional Seminar on Advancing the Decolonization Process in the Caribbean and Bermuda, to be held at The Valley, Anguilla, from 20 to 22 May 2003

Guidelines and rules of procedure

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, at its fifty-fifth session, adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, in which it declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Assembly called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second International Decade. The updated plan of action is contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (A/56/61).

2. In its resolution 57/140 of 11 December 2002, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2003, including the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region to be organized by the Committee and attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

II. Place and dates of the Seminar

3. The Caribbean Regional Seminar will be held at The Valley, Anguilla, from 20 to 22 May 2003.

III. Purpose of the Seminar

4. The purpose of the Seminar is to assess the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular their constitutional evolution towards self-determination, in order to facilitate the development by the Special Committee of a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Seminar will also identify areas in which the international community could increase and enhance its participation in programmes of assistance and adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensuring the political and sustainable socio-economic development of the Territories concerned.

5. The topics to be considered by the Seminar will assist the Special Committee in making a realistic evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Seminar will give pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of those Territories. It will also secure the participation of organizations and institutions that are actively involved in the political, economic and social development of those Territories.

6. The contributions of the participants will serve as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar, which will be carefully studied by the Special Committee with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2001-2010).

IV. Agenda of the Seminar

7. The agenda of the Seminar is as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee in facilitating the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

2. Perspective of the administering Powers on the completion of the decolonization process in the Caribbean and Bermuda within the context of the United Nations decolonization mandate.

3. Views of the representatives of the Caribbean and Bermuda Non-Self-Governing Territories on their present status and the completion of the decolonization process in their Territories.

4. Overview of the implications of self-government in the Caribbean:

   (a) Political and constitutional advancement;

   (b) Economic implications of self-government;

   (c) Social implications;

   (d) Self-government and regional integration.

5. Role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

6. Views of the representatives of the non-Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories on their present status and the completion of the decolonization process in their Territories.

7. Recommendations:

   (a) Recommendations on advancement of the decolonization process in the Caribbean and Bermuda;

   (b) Recommendations on the decolonization process in other Non-Self-Governing Territories.

V. Organization of the Seminar

8. The following provisions will govern the organization of the Seminar:

(a) The Seminar will be organized by the Special Committee in accordance with the rules of procedure contained in the annex to the present guidelines;

(b) The Seminar will be conducted by a delegation of the Special Committee consisting of Chairman, members of the Bureau and seven other members representing each of the regional geographic groups within the Special Committee;

(c) The Seminar may be attended by the following:

   (i) Representatives of the Member States;

   (ii) Representatives of the host Government;

   (iii) Representatives of the administering Powers;

   (iv) Representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(v) A representative of the Secretary-General;

(vi) Representatives of concerned specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system;

(vii) Representatives of the organizations based in the region and the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(viii) Experts on Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Annex

Rules of procedure

Preamble

The Caribbean Regional Seminar is being held under the terms of General Assembly resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000. The organization of the Seminar and the conduct of its proceedings shall follow the general guidelines set out in the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.[a]

Rule 1
Responsibility for conducting the Seminar

The Seminar shall be organized by the Special Committee and conducted by the Chairman of the Special Committee, with the assistance of the Bureau of the Seminar (see rule 2 (a) below).

Rule 2
Officers of the Seminar

(a) The Chairman shall appoint three Vice-Chairmen, a Rapporteur and a Chairman of the Drafting Group of the Seminar from among the participating members of the Special Committee. These officers shall be given specific responsibilities by the Chairman and shall constitute the Bureau of the Seminar.

(b) The Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Seminar, direct its discussions, ensure observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions.

(c) If the Chairman is unable to be present at a meeting or any part thereof, a Vice-Chairman shall preside over the meeting.

Rule 3
Secretariat

(a) The secretariat of the Special Committee shall service the Seminar.

(b) The secretariat shall be responsible for all necessary arrangements regarding the organization of the Seminar.

Rule 4
Languages

The working language of the Seminar shall be English.

Rule 5
Conduct of business

(a) Decisions shall, as a rule, be taken by consensus. Should a vote be required, only representatives of the Special Committee attending the Seminar shall be entitled to vote.

(b) Any procedural question with regard to the conduct of business of the Seminar not covered by the present rules shall be decided upon by the Chairman in consultation with the Bureau of the Seminar.

Rule 6
Participation in the Seminar

Participation in the Seminar shall be restricted to the persons to whom formal invitations have been addressed by the Chairman of the Special Committee in accordance with the related decision of the General Assembly[b] and whose names appear on the official list of participants drawn up by the Chairman.

Rule 7
Debates and publicity concerning the Seminar

(a) The meetings of the Seminar shall be held in public unless the Chairman decides that exceptional circumstances require that the meeting be held in private.

(b) Statements to the information media shall be made by the Chairman. The Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat shall be responsible for the dissemination of information on the Seminar, including the issuance of press releases covering meetings of the Seminar held in public.

(c) Participating organizations shall be represented by the person so invited (see rule 6 above), who may make one general statement on issues within the purview of the Committee's mandate and pertaining to those Territories under its consideration during the course of the Seminar.

(d) The Chairman may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker.

(e) During the course of the discussion, the Chairman, with the consent of the Seminar, may declare the list of speakers closed. When there are no speakers, the Chairman shall, with the consent of the Seminar, declare the debate closed.

Rule 8
Records

The Seminar shall have sound recordings of its proceedings, which shall be retained in the archives of the United Nations in accordance with established practice.

Rule 9
Report

The Rapporteur of the Seminar shall prepare the draft report of the Seminar. The Chairman, assisted by a drafting group appointed by him and to be chaired by one of the members of the drafting group, shall prepare draft conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar. The report of the Seminar, with conclusions and recommendations, shall be submitted to the Special Committee for its consideration.

Notes

[a] A/520/Rev.15 and Amend.1.

[b] See A/56/61, annex, para. 22 (c).